(b) Personal computers attract 15 per-cent excise duty, manual typewriters attract various specific rates and electronic typewriters attract 25 per cent excise duty. These items are not comparable with each other. The classification of computers and typewriters from the point of view of levy of excise duty is also different under the Central Excise Tarif Act.

PROTEST AGAINST DUNKEL DRAFT BY FORMERS

2392. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian farmers have joined their counterparts in France, Japan and other countries to protest against adoption of Dunkel Draft;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under caption "Farmers protest against Dunkel in Geneva" as reported in the Statesman, Delhi edition dated 5th December, 1993 and

(c) if so, further steps being taken to protect Indian farmers against foreign invasion in to Indian Agridulture ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (d) A news item had appeared in "The Statesman" of 5 December, 1993, in which it was reported that farmers from India, Europe and Japan demonstrated at Geneva against adoption of the Dunkel Draft.

(c) It is not anticipated that there would be any foreign invasion into Indian Agriculture.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING FROM COAL EXPORT

2393. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN :
SHRI J. S. RAJU :
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total coal exported during 1992-93 and the amount earned during this period;

(b) what is the name of the country which imported the maximum coal from India; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to boost foreign exchange earnings from coal export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total quantity of coal exported is 5.01 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 50.01 crores during 1992-93.

(b) Bangladesh

(c) All restriction on export of coal have been removed from 1-4-1993.

IMPORT OF COMPUTERS FROM USA

2394. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import powerful computers from USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the background for such a move;

(c) whether availability of these powerful computers in the country has been planned for the year 1994;

(d) if so, the details thereof with amount of foreign exchange to be spent on such import;

(e) whether advantages of these computers have been explained to the people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (f) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, Computer Systems

of C.I.F. value of more than Rs. 1.50 lakhs are freely importable by all persons without a licence. Separate figures of actual import of Computers by organisations or individulas are not maintained. There is adequate awareness about the use of Computers and users themselves decide about their import requirement. Due to liberalised import regime of Computers, it is not possible to estimate the likely import or expenditure of foreign exchange for the year 1994.

2395. (*Transferred to 22nd December, 1993*).

EXPORT OF DURAM WHEAT AND AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

2396. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high cost variety duram wheat is permitted to be exported;

(b) if so, what are the details about the quantum of export, floor price fixed and other related issues;

(c) whether agricultural exports are going up, if so, give the export figures for last 3 years;

(d) whether Government have taken care to import food grains in case domestic prices of wheat go up due to its export and import affordable varieties of food grains to poor people; and

(e) what if the estimated potential of agricultural exports in coming period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : (a) and (b) Export of duram wheat has recently been allowed subject to MEP of US $ 160 PMT FOB & a ceiling of 3 lakh MT during 1993-94.

(c) Agricultural exports are going up. During 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93, export of agricultural items namely Rice, Wheat Other Cereals, Tobacco, Spices, Cashew, Groundnut, Oilmeals, Sugar and Molasses, Floriculture Products, Processed Fruits and Juices, Misc. Processed items, Meat Preparations, Fruits and Vegetables, tea, coffee, cotton, marine products etc. were to the tune of Rs. 5947.49 crores, Rs. 7665.94 crores and Rs. 8763.04 crores respectively.

(d) It is the policy of the Government to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise our food security.

(e) The export projections for agro-exports at the end of the Eight Five Year Plan (1992-97) including tea, coffee, coton and marine products is Rs. 12,064 crores at 1991-92 prices.

PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTING TOBACCO FARMERS

2397. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Goverment of Andhra Pradesh have submitted any proposals for assisting tobacco farmers in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to implement suggestions of State Government of Andhra Pradesh to solve problems of tobacco farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : (a) and (b) The State Government had brought to the notice of the Central Government the demand of the